

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on November 14, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted on the following: rollcall No. 837—S. 1412 (Sen. KERRY), “aye”; rollcall No. 838—H.R. 298 (Rep. CARTER), “aye”; rollcall No. 839—H.R. 2422 (Rep. GRIMM), “aye”.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 855 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

RECOGNIZING MAYOR MARILYN
STEPHAN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE
CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend, Mayor Marilyn Stephan, as she retires from her position as Mayor of Berkley, Michigan, after more than a decade of service to her community and region.

A longtime resident of Berkley, Marilyn's record of service long predates her involvement on Berkley's City Council and as Mayor.

In a demonstration of her commitment to building a stronger community, Marilyn dedicated her professional life to educating and nurturing the development of her students. As a teacher, first in Clarenceville and later in the Berkley School District, Marilyn made development of future generations her daily responsibility. Whether it was teaching English or home economics, Marilyn brought with her an unwavering commitment and passion for educating her students in the skills they needed to become successful. As a debate coach, Marilyn helped her students refine their critical thinking and public speaking skills, both of which are required for being an effective leader.

As a passionate educator in her community, Marilyn's work during her tenure did not end in the classroom. In her home, Marilyn raised her children with the same zeal she displayed in her teaching and today is a proud mother and grandmother. As an impassioned leader among her fellow educators, Marilyn also served a decade as President of the Berkley Education Association.

It is no surprise that a quiet retirement was unlikely for Marilyn and in November 1999 she was elected to the Berkley City Council and later as Mayor of Berkley in 2005. In her role as Mayor, Marilyn has been a strong voice of the needs of her community in important regional organizations like the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the Woodward

Avenue Action Association and the South Oakland County Mayors Association. Under her leadership, Berkley has successfully implemented major road improvements, stabilized its financial outlook and updated its master plan, all of which made Berkley a better place to live for its residents. As a testament to the improvements she oversaw, Forbes Magazine and Business Week named Berkley one of America's best affordable suburbs in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Marilyn's lifelong career of service to Berkley, Michigan. I know that her dedication, passion and leadership will be greatly missed within Berkley's city administration and by its neighboring communities. I wish Marilyn many happy years with her children and grandchildren in retirement and I know she will continue to be a voice of positive change in her community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, I was detained in a meeting and inadvertently missed a vote in a series of recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote No. 850 (on agreeing to the Cicilline amendment to H.R. 822).

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL “DAN”
SISEMORE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Daniel “Dan” Sisemore who passed away on November 11, 2011 in Newport Beach, California. Dan was a pillar of the community in Corona, California and he will be deeply missed.

Dan Sisemore was born on November 9, 1934, in California. In 1952, Dan and his father began work in the construction industry. With just one truck they founded the company More Truck Lines. The business grew and in 1969 they started All American Asphalt with an asphalt plant in Westminster, California. The company has grown exponentially over the years and now owns an aggregate quarry in Corona, California and six asphalt plants throughout the region. All American Asphalt is not only a material supplier but also a fully integrated road construction firm. All American Asphalt employs 850 employees, all of whom took inspiration from the founder and leader: Dan Sisemore. Dan was a visionary in the industry and the quintessential American entrepreneur.

Dan's hobbies and interests included golf, fishing, hunting and horse racing. He enjoyed the desert and spending time with friends at the beach. The way in which Dan lived his life should serve as reminder to others that the power of an individual with drive, perseverance and a stellar work-ethic can do great things.

Dan was the loving husband to Betty, brother to Cindy, father to Toni, Tracy, Donna and Mark and devoted uncle to Bob and Don. He was affectionately known to his grandchildren as “Papa.”

On Saturday, November 19, 2011, a memorial service celebrating Dan's extraordinary life will be held. Dan will always be remembered for his incredible contributions to business, his work ethic, generosity, and love of family. His dedication to his work, family and community are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Dan's family and friends; although Dan may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

HONORING THE HUDSON RIVER
SCHOOL OF PAINTING

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2011

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent a district along the Hudson River that is steeped in history and produced the first American school of painting in the mid-nineteenth century, called the Hudson River School of Painting. Its founder and spiritual leader was Thomas Cole, who, in 1825, sailed up the Hudson River to the Catskill Mountains and painted inspiring pictures of New York State sites that attracted instant acclaim. Thomas Cole was born in Bolton, Lancashire in northwest England in 1801. He emigrated to the United States in 1818, and around 1832, rented a small studio in my district called Cedar Grove. This is now known today as the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. Complementing Cedar Grove, and also located in my district, is the home and studio of Frederic Edwin Church, who was a student of Thomas Cole. During the last 40 years of Church's life, he created a 250 acre estate called Olana. Olana is a National Historic Landmark located in Hudson, NY, and I proud to represent this fine marker of our history, which is home to the Hudson River School of Painting. The painters that gathered here, among them Asher B. Durand, Jasper F. Cropsey, John F. Kensett, Sanford R. Gifford, formed the first coherent society of artists in America, and led the fine arts until the end of the Civil War. Today, their major paintings are seen in museums throughout the United States, including major federal buildings in Washington, D.C., such as the White House, State Department, and National Gallery of Art. They depict the landscape of America, and some have said these were the first environmental conservationists, who glorified our land and its contours in the mid-nineteenth century.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the effort to place creative bronze “Arches” historic markers along the Hudson River, marking where these artists painted. My colleague, Rep. ELIOT ENGEL, recently unveiled a Hudson River School of Painting historic marker at Hastings on Hudson, and others will be placed at Hook Mountain, on the Hudson River near Nyack, with a beautiful view of the Tappan Zee Bridge and Haverstraw Bay, as well as at Newburgh, New York. Greg Wyatt, Director of the Academy of Art at the